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INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

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GEORGE S. COTTMAN, *Editor*

EDITORIAL.

With the present number the undersigned again assumes, at least for a time, the editorial charge of this magazine. Professor C. B. Coleman, who for the last four years has faithfully performed this gratuitous service, is now away on a leave of absence from Butler College, Indianapolis, where he holds the chair of history, and is pursuing his studies in American history at Columbia University. In taking over Professor Coleman's task a certain unpreparedness on the part of the present writer has not only caused delay, but has made impossible as much variety as the magazine should present. It has been necessary to depend over-much, perhaps, on reprints, but if now or in future numbers reprints are freely used, the endeavor will be made to seek out matter that is valuable and so inaccessible as to be well worth republishing.

GEORGE S. COTTMAN.

A GEORGE ROGERS CLARK DOCUMENT.

Mr. John Owens, of Charlestown, Ind., sends us a surveying document of 1786, the interest of which is enhanced by the signature of George Rogers Clark as party to the transfer of 500 acres in Clark county to John Holker. The price received for this land is not shown. A feature of the document is a rude diagram or approximate square, the four corners of which are designated as K T, K U, L U and L T. The survey reads:

"Surveyed for George Rogers Clark, 500 acres of land in the Illinois Grant No. 229, being part of his claim allowed by the Board of Commrs. Beginning at K T, a beech, the west corner

of ano[ther] survey of said Clark's No. 212, running thence with a line of said other survey No. 50 E. 266 $\frac{2}{3}$ poles, crossing two branches, waters of 14 Mile creek, to K U, a beech; thence with a line of Henry Floyd's survey No. 230 N. 40 W. 300 poles, crossing a branch, to L U, a poplar; thence S. 50 W. 266 $\frac{2}{3}$ poles to L T, an elm; thence with a line of Richard McCarty's survey No. 228 S. 40 E. 300 poles, crossing a branch, to the beginning.

"EDM'ND ROGERS,, Asst. S.

"W. CLARKE, P. S.

"Recorded & Exd. 1st March, 1786."

On the reverse side of the sheet is written:

"I do hereby assign all my Rights and Interest to and in the within mentioned Lands to John Holker, his heirs & assigns, and desire that a Deed may be issued for them in his name.

"G. R. CLARK.

"Test: BUCKNER T. THURSTON."

AN EARLY GREENCASTLE NEWSPAPER.

A copy of The Western Ploughboy that has come into our possession is of interest owing to its rarity. The Ploughboy, edited by G. W. Osborn, was published in Greencastle, Indiana, and this copy bears the date of June 23, 1836, it being Vol. II, No. 36. It has the customary four-page form and is printed on a 22 x 32 sheet. As is usual with the early papers, there is very little in the way of local news, the chief item being a smallpox scare of sufficient moment to cause a public meeting and the creation of a board of health. This board had for its members Doctors A. C. Stevenson, S. J. Scott, William E. Talbott and T. W. Cowgill, together with John Thornburg, Silas Jones, John Standiford, and John W. Osborn. It was requested of it to "enjoin upon our fellow-citizens generally the necessity of vaccination." Names of other local citizens mentioned in connection with Fourth of July arrangements are: William H. Shields, F. B. Amsden, William B. Gwathmey, William M. C. Blake, J. W. Lyon, John Cowgill, Thomas Robinson, James M. Grooms, Amasa Johnson, Westley

White, Isaac Ash and L. B. Marshall. In the advertising columns we find Allison & Robinson, David Eagon, James Gore and Silas Jones & Co., merchants; Robert M. Wingate, cabinet-maker and house joiner; William H. Cooper, saddler; Taylor & Dicks, tailors; Milton F. Barlow, hatter; P. S. Wilson and John N. Hart, proprietors of the Bell Tavern; Dr. Scott, and Edwin Heath, Jacob Durham, J. H. Lucas, James Johnson, Reuben Wright, justices of the peace for Putnam county. Most of these latter officials advertise stray horses taken up, indicating the troubles of the pioneers in this regard in the days of large range and few fences.

The ubiquitous candidate is, of course, in evidence, and in a long communication James Nasler, would-be legislator, sets forth his views on the subject of internal improvement. In the internal improvement of the State Mr. Nasler sees glorious possibilities, and these as he sets them forth in detail, sound rather amusing in the light of subsequent experience. There is also an allusion to the removal of the county seat from Greencastle, showing that there had been some agitation of the question.